

THE
Board of Home Missions
OF THE

Presbyterian Church of the U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Let us make the Presbyterian Church a Power for Righteousness in Wyoming

CHEYENNE, WYOMING

2022 FEBRICAN

August 14", 1914

Rev S. Hall Young, D.D

New York City

My dear Doctor Young:-

We have had some correspondence about H.W.Greist
M.D. of Casper, for Mission work

I see your appeal for a man with medical knowledge to take up Alaska work. Why do you not take Dr Greist? He is consecrated, clean, honest, up right- a physician of good standing, and one that will devote his whole soul to the work. Of course I know the hesitancy about matters- but you cannot afford to turn aside a man of his spirit and ability. He is not the one to blame. It is his sweet, consecrated and forbearing disposition that has permitted himself to be imposed on for years.

I want to urge the appoint of the good Doctor to that work, and if I may put it thus- insist on it. There are times when the very matter that has been the drawback, should not be countenanced even by the church. Knowing him as I do, I would appoint him in a minute if it were in my power- and hasten him to the work you need a man for so badly.

Sincerely

L Harold Forde

*You say our church is disgraced
because no one volunteered. But
Dr Greist has offered- the disgrace
is that you do not send him.
If not Called of God he would
not offer for the work. What is
more that he should object
to God's call!*

Dear Brother:-

The services of the Pastor Evangelist are at the command of the different fields. There is no charge for these; the Board of Home Missions gladly paying him his salary. But it costs something-and in Wyoming it is no small amount-to meet his travelling expenses. The Board asks each church that receives these services to try so far as possible to meet the expenses of the trip to the field. Some small, weak fields are unable to do this; others do not seem to consider this part of their obligation.

Some have thought that whatever was given the Pastor Evangelist on the occasion of a visit should be counted as an offering to the cause of Home Missions. The Board requires each aid receiving church to make an annual offering to the mission work of the Board, exclusive of the amount contributed to the Pastor Evangelists expenses. To count what is given him on the occasion of a visit, unless arrangements for an annual offering have been previously made, and he makes a Missionary Address with an appeal for an offering, is manifestly unfair, and escaping the church's obligation to the Board.

The Pastor Evangelist does not receive any benefit from the money contributed on the occasion of his visit. Whatever the amount given may be-whether small or large-is forwarded at once by draft to the Treasurer of the Board in New York City.

September 3rd, 1914.

Rev. L. Harold Forde,
2022 Pebrican,
Cheyenna, Wyo.

My dear Brother:-

Yours of August 4th concerning Dr. Greist arrived while I was absent on my vacation, and I now hasten to take it up.

When Dr. Greist offered himself for the work of medical missionary in Alaska, he expressly stated that he did not wish to go to Point Barrow. If he had not put in that exception, I believe that we would have secured him for that place long before this. The point for which we were considering him - Mushagak, on Bristol Bay has not been opened by us yet, and we are awaiting the report of our General Missionary, Dr. Condit who is just returning from a trip to that field. That mission will not be opened before next Spring.

My last appeal has brought a response from a physician who has also already been a missionary, and he is considering Pt. Barrow and we are considering him. It is now too late to send anyone to Point Barrow this year, as boats only run to that distant, and ice-locked point during the month of August of each year.

Sixen
I did not agree with Dr. Thompson, and some of the other officers of the Board in regard to Dr. Greist's disability on account of his family troubles. I wanted him for that work, and still want him, and consider that he is the very best man for such a field. If he had not himself barred Point Barrow, I think I could have put through his appointment.

Please let Dr. Greist see this letter, and ask him whether in case the physician we are considering for Pt. Barrow is not sent there, whether he would be willing to undertake that lonely, and difficult, but most important field. Whether he would undertake to go in during the winter by dog-sled, twenty-three hundred miles trip over the snow and ice.

Thanking you for your letter and your interest in this work,
I am,

Yours very sincerely,

Alaska office - Board of Home Missions.

DR. HENRY W. GREIST
SURGEON
CASPER, WYOMING

September 10, 1914.

Rev. S. Hall Young, D.D.,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York.

My dear Dr. Young:

I have just bidden adieu to my good friend, Rev. L. Harold Forde who spent the night with friends in Casper en route to the Basin Country in N.W. Wyoming, prospecting for new fields for church extension. While here I had the pleasure of reading your

letter to him under date of the 3d inst., and wish to assure you same has given me much encouragement. With Mr. Forde I have discussed the Alaskan proposition quite thoroughly, and we have gone into the matter in detail as to my interest therein and the prospects as to my going out as a medical missionary.

In this connection I wish to explain away if possible that which I fear has proven a misapprehension on your part, my apparent lack of interest in the Point Barrow field. You will perhaps remember writing me under date of January 30th last: "

"In regard to our other mission for which we need a man who is a physician as well as an ordained minister, there is Point Barrow on the Arctic coast. We need a man with a wife, and could not possibly consider anybody who is single.

This paragraph in your letter apparently closed this field to me, and I dismissed the matter from my mind at once. There were other reasons as well. I have taken particular interest in the project in and about Bristol Bay for the reason of its contemplated peculiar character, its similarity in scope and government to Dr. Grenfell's noted Labrador work. The very active life permitted by the climate of Southern Alaska, the wide and practically unlimited field geographically and otherwise, and the fact that I would have the companionship of a fellow worker, so essential as I believed in my situation. However, I desire to say once for all and emphatically, the climate of Point Barrow has no terrors for me nor would the over-land trip thereto of twenty-three hundred miles over snow and ice in dog sledge appall me. Physically, I am fit, and temperamentally I am ready for such a life. However, there is reason in the question, Would it be a wise undertaking for one situated as I am, without wife, and accompanied by no fellow worker from whom I might derive inspiration and help throughout the long Arctic night? And yet, Alaska is near my heart and I am very brave, so, having consecrated myself to this work unreservedly last spring (or winter,) I will not remove my hands from the plow and look back if God shall clearly call me to even Point Barrow, and will offer myself for such work as the Church shall ask at my hands. I think I would seek ordination at the hands of my Presbytery here were I to go out to either field, Point Barrow or to the prospective Bristol Bay territory, believing as I do that I would thereby enjoy greater freedom and would be able to serve the work more acceptably. However, that is a matter for the Church to decide.

My only desire is, to be used of God wheresoever He would have me be. But I have hoped for the activities of Southern Alaska and, as I apprehend, the wider field and greater opportunities for exercising

my special ability or training as surgeon, and capacity I hope for organization. Again, in Southern Alaska I have opportunity for keeping more closely in touch with my boys and I would perhaps be able to see them more frequently. And yet, that is not necessarily a sine quo non.

Relative to my unhappy domestic affairs, I feel it due you to state that circumstances forced me to sue for divorce this summer, and suit is now pending. I had successfully prosecuted a like suit two years since, and after all evidence was in and the court awaiting settlement of property rights out of court that he might make same a matter of record, I precipitately dismissed the suit with consent of the judge, doing it because of the earnest appeal of my three boys. However, I later saw my error and as said, have this summer determined to close the matter permanently. I am hoping to secure trial in October, or in November at latest. I feel it would be unwise for me to leave Wyoming until this is ended.

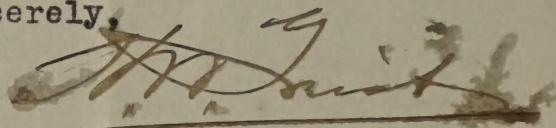
I will thank you for any and all literature available upon the Point Barrow field, and in fact upon all Alaskan mission territories. I desire to inform myself as fully as may be that I may the more intelligently consider these matters.

I would also thank you to advise if there would be any other workers in Point Barrow, any other white Americans, the extent of the field, the scope of the work, its character, etc. I acknowledge I know little about Northern Alaska.

Incidentally, what of the opportunities for sport, shooting and fishing? My one recreation is along these lines, and I must keep myself in trim. I am a bundle of nervous energy and cannot be idle, and when work slacks I find a rifle my one solace and defense from the "blues."

Thanking you kindly for your interest and for your considerate management of my application, I am

Yours very sincerely,



What support would the Point Barrow opening afford?--salary, etc. That is a matter I must not neglect account my desire to properly educate my boys. Their ages are 12, 15 and 19 respectively. My oldest is just now entering technical school.

September 15th, 1914.

Dr. Henry W. Griest,
Casper, Wyo.

My dear Dr. Griest:-

Yours of September 10th is at hand, and I hasten to reply.

First I wish to make my own status with the Board plain to you. I have no executive power. I am the special representative of the Board for Alaska, to correspond with the missionaries, equip them with what is needed, prepare literature and lecture among the churches, raise funds necessary for the fields, but while an officer of the Board, I am not a executive officer, and have no vote, I am only an advisory, although all Alaska matters are referred to me for consideration and advise.

Dr. Thompson is no longer with the Board as secretary. Dr. John Dixon take his place as secretary for the north west, but there has been a reorganization of the Board and each co-ordinate secretary has a committee to which he has to defer.

Dr Dixon, I tell this to you confidentially, is though a very kindly man, most conservative and rather timid than aggressive. He is not so likely to decide delicate questions in a bold and consequent way as his heart may dictate, as was Dr. Thompson. He is more apt to defer to the judgement of others and see more lions in the way. I tell you this in order to prepare you for ultimate disappointment if it should come. Dr. Dixon's judgement is most excellent, and I have no doubt superior to mine, but where I would go ahead he often halts. I have talked over your case with him, and he agrees with me fully that you are competent for such work as that to which you have offered your life, but fears that the harsh and unjust judgement of the world might condemn you and danger your work and the Cause.

Now in regard to these fields. Point Barrow is vacant and although men and women who have gone up there as Government teachers are said to be fine people, they are not however competent so far as we hear to care for the bodies and the souls of those natives. It is of course out of the question now to send anybody in to that field this summer, and the long trip over ice by dog and reindeer sled would not only be very hard, but very expensive to the Board. I do not believe that the Board would undertake the task. This is going to be a very hard year on all missionary enterprises for the Foreign and Home. The stress of the war has already cut down the revenues and the Board will probably have to face a large debt at the end of this fiscal year. It is therefore better to retrench in every way and to undertake no new and expensive enterprise if they can possibly be avoided. I do not

Dr. Greist.

intend to give up Point Barrow, but are making every effort to get a man and his wife for that point by next summer. We have had a number of view and are now corresponding with a man who is a physician and also a minister.

Now as to the other enterprise, that of Bristol Bay: Dr. Condit, our General Missionary who has just returned from a trip to Bristol Bay, and we are awaiting his report. He has been to see Mr. McBride who is at Cordova and has undoubtedly talked over the whole situation with him. I believe that Mr. Condit will recommend the establishment of the mission. It is going to be a very expensive affair and will contemplate a physician, besides a minister and his wife. There will have to be a large equipment raised to get a dog sled, hospital, nurse etc., It will probably require the initiative expenditure of ten or fifteen thousand dollars at least. If the mission is launched I will have to spend a large part of the winter trying to raise the money. Perhaps Dr. Condit will come East to help me.

Now my desire, if that mission is launched, is to have you as physician. You would be much freer than a married man, and would have the companionship of Mr. and Mrs. McBride, a very choice young couple. Mr. McBride wishes you to be the physician. It would be far better for you than Point Barrow, a greater opportunity for usefulness. In the summer there are 2500 to 3000 white fishermen, the toughest lot of citizens in all the north-west, and some 2,000 Eskimos in that region. The Government has had a physician at Nushagak in connection with the schools there, but he has not been able to do much visiting to outlying points. The physician who goes through Bristol Bay will have to do a great deal of travelling winter and summer, and there will be an immense field for surgical and medical work. His duties would carry him three or four hundred miles into the Interior and down along the Alaska Peninsula and up into the region of Iliamna Lake. Should you go there you would find a splendid game country with plenty of caribou, and bears besides all sorts of small game for your shot-gun. I have a fellow feeling with you in your life for sport. Last summer I made a hunting trip of 5,000 miles along the coast of Alaska and Siberia, hunting Walrus, Polar Bear, Caribou, Brown Bears etc. I shot with my rifle four times, and got ~~four~~ large walrus and three caribou, besides I had some of the best wing shooting at Geese, Ducks, Snipe, and Ptarmigan that I ever enjoyed.

Now I do not want to raise your hopes too high for the mission may not be launched. Even if the Board approves I may not be able to raise the necessary funds in this hard year. Even if the mission is launched, I may not be able to secure your appointment, although I wish to assure you that I shall do all in my power for you. In case I do succeed and you are appointed as missionary physician there I hope some time to go back and join in a big hunt with you and Mr. McBride who is also an ardent sportsman.

Point Barrow has not much game, expect Whales, Polar Bears, Sea Lions, Walrus, and Seals. Two or three hundred miles back from the shore there are plenty of caribou. In case Dr. Condit's report is favorable for the opening up of the Bristol Bay mission, I shall

Dr. Griest.

send you copies and documents of that field, which will enable you to keep yourself posted. There is very good country in the Iliamna and Clark Lake region, especially for farming and stock raising. With the passage for the opening of Government railroads and for the survey of public lands in Alaska, such regions of this will be settled in time, and that time not very far in the future.

You ask about the salary. We give our missionaries in that Presbytery \$1700, and their expenses to the field, also their necessary expenses in travelling about, with that and what you would be able to make in your general practise among the white fishermen ought to support you comfortable and educate your boys. Perhaps in time you would find it wise to bring one or two of them out to you. That region is mild in climate and very healthful. When the railroad is extended to the Kuskowim Valley, it will be far more accessible than now. Even now boats call at Kalmi and there are trails and portages via Naknek Lake over to Bristol Bay.

Please let me keep in touch with you.

Praying that the Lord may guide you and us to His Glory, and to the advancement of His Cause, I am,

Your Brother,

Alaska office.

KW

THE
Board of Home Missions
OF THE

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156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Let us make the Presbyterian Church a Power for Righteousness in Wyoming

CHEYENNE, WYOMING

2022 FEBRICAN

September 17", 1914

Rev S. Hall Young D.D

New York City

My dear Doctor Young:-

I turned your letter over to Dr Griest who has already written you in regard to the appointment as Missionary to Alaska. In your letter to me you say Dr græst closed the door against Point Barrow- some one wrote him signing your name, before he declined Point Barrow, saying that the first requisite for Point Barrow was a married man- and he could not meet that requirement. Now I am certain you can secure him for the work in one of the fields. He is a good physician and trained surgeon- so that he can do the very kind of work that Dr Grenfel is doing in Labrador. He will be detained a short time as he has told you in his letter. I wish you would push this appointment along. I am glad you look at the matter as I do.

Thanking you for the kindness and interest I am

Sincerely

L. Harold Forde

Dear Brother:-

The services of the Pastor Evangelist are at the command of the different fields. There is no charge for these; the Board of Home Missions gladly paying him his salary. But it costs something-and in Wyoming it is no small amount-to meet his travelling expenses. The Board asks each church that receives these services to try so far as possible to meet the expenses of the trip to the field. Some small, weak fields are unable to do this; others do not seem to consider this part of their obligation.

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DR. HENRY W. GREIST
SURGEON
CASPER, WYOMING

Tuesday,
September 22, 1914.

Rev. S. Hall Young, D.D.,
New York.

My dear Dr. Young:

Your letter of the 15th inst lies before me. I thank you kindly for your full and sympathetic communication. That I may keep him in touch with this matter, I am forwarding yours with carbon of this reply to my friend, Rev. L. Harold Forde, of Cheyenne, Pastor Evangelist and Stated Clerk, Cheyenne Presbytery.

Alaska deeply interests me. Its many problems, the various difficulties, the achievements in the past and the projects for even greater things in the future, all profoundly appeal to me. The Bristol Bay territory and the Board's plans therefor strangely interest me. If I mistake not, this will prove the very sort of work for which I have hoped and of which I have dreamed for years. Evangelism among not only the natives but among those fishermen up and down that coast, would enlist my zeal and undying interest. However hard and tough that crowd of characters might prove, yet I believe I am dispositioned such that, with God's help, I could win their confidence. With the natives I feel sure I could do this. To be associated in this particular field with Rev. Mr. McBride would indeed be helpful.

In this connection I would state that, Rev. Mr. Forde has volunteered the suggestion that in case the Board sees fit to commission me to Alaska he believes there will be no hesitancy on part of Cheyenne Presbytery as to ordaining me to the ministry. In this he speaks not officially, or authoritatively, but as a member only.

And now, Dr. Young, pray do not think me seeking after the easy jobs, the soft places, or a field wherein I may have a minimum amount of exposure to the rigors of climate or hardship. Per contra, I ordinarily prefer the difficult tasks, the tough propositions. Very freely I desire to say, if the Board shall feel disposed to accept me I am ready to go any where so soon as the way shall be entirely clear. However, I have sought solely to express my own conviction as to the peculiar fitness of Bristol Bay territory as suited to me. If the way shall open clearly I will enter upon this work consecrated thereto and determined to devote my best interests and all my powers to its success under the over-shadowing guidance and blessing of Him whom I am seeking to serve.

I will thankfully appreciate being kept in touch with the progress of events and developments as to ~~this~~ work.

Thanking you for favors shown me, and with kind regards I am

Sincerely yours,

H. W. Greist

DR. HENRY W. GREIST
SURGEON
CASPER, WYOMING

Friday morning,
September the Twenty-fifth,
Nineteen Hundred Fourteen.

Rev. S. Hall Young, D.D.,
New York.

My dear Doctor Young:

I feel that I owe it to myself and to you, and through you to the Board as well, to put myself positively and unequivocally on record as to my personal affairs, my family troubles, my justification for bringing divorce action, etc. I have been under the impression that I did this last winter when this matter was up, but perhaps not. A terse ^{and} emphatic repetition will at least accomplish no harm.

I consented to a separation from my wife only after she had asked for same many times throughout a period of ten years. Her requests becoming more and more insistent, emphatic and imperative, she finally demandd same, and forthwith made it impossible for me to refuse longer with credit and self-respect. I had many many times throughout the years pleaded the sacredness of our marriage vows, had prayed with her and for her for long hours -- oft times until near day-light, that we might renew our covenants and hand-in-hand compatibly take up again life's responsibilities, but she would not or could not. Marriage to me was a sacred ordinance, and yet conditions in our home made it otherwise. When in 1910 she absolutely refused to live longer with me, had repeatedly assaulted me, locked me without my home, falsely accused me times without number, held up to ridicule all which I considered sacred and pure, I gracefully withdrew. Even then I refused to sue out divorce as per her request, but was forced thereto some months later. Having vindicated myself in open court, I dismissed the suit ere a decree was given me, doing it for the sake of my boys. Then she proceeded to hound and harass me for reasons I know not, and, to escape her and the odium and embarrassment caused thereby, I left Indiana in the effort to have peace and quietude again. But she has persecuted me even here, and at last I am again forced to take up the only weapon possible.

My cause is just and well within the interpretation of our Church. I protest against being made to suffer longer because of an unfortunate marriage. Throughout the years I have had some three different openings for work in the foreign mission field, once twenty years since soon after my marriage, and again twelve or fifteen years since, and later on a third time, but she would not. And I cannot see why she should be permitted to interfere at this time when for over four years she has failed me as wife and helpmate. She alleges a wish for reconciliation, but couples therewith actions and treatment which make it impossible for me to believe her sincere to any degree whatsoever. I yielded to separation only after all other solutions were long since exhausted. And now, I wish if I may retrieve the past in so far as I shall be able by engaging in that which ~~I~~ have felt to be my life work since I was a boy of sixteen. I consecrated myself thereto, and educated myself therefor, and am ready so soon as I shall disperse this cloud which has overhung my life. Having freed myself as I believe on bended knee I

Dr. Young -- 2.

have a moral right to do, I shall be ready to go out, provided the Church will accept me. If I am considered unavailable account this "cloud", as Dr. Thompson expressed it, then ~~all well and good~~, I shall bow in submission and endeavor to occupy that place in life here or elsewhere as God may direct, but nevertheless down deep in my heart of hearts I cannot other than fail to comprehend. I repeat, my position and my contention is one well within that which is interpreted by our General Assembly in the past as right and just. And on this I stand firmly and uncompromisingly.

With the hope that ~~this~~ this will set at rest any doubts or misunderstandings, and that it will not be necessary for me to further defend myself as to this embarrassment, I remain

Most sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. V. G. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

September 30th, 1914.

Dr. Henry W. Greist,
Casper, Wyo.

My dear Dr. Greist:-

Two an-answered letters from you are by me,
the last bearing the date of September 25th.

We have not yet received the report of Dr.
Condit concerning the Mushagak mission. He has been laid up with
rheumatism which has delayed his report.

I can only say at this time that I entirely sympathize
with you in your private troubles and that personally I consider
you are all the more fitted for the Lords work as a missionary
physician because of the fiery trials through which you have
passed. I shall do all in my power to secure you for our Alaska
work. What my success will be I cannot tell. I have been
entirely frank and open with you and about you.

I shall write to you again and more fully as soon
as I hear more.

Very sincerely yours,

KW

REV. ROBERT M. DONALDSON, D. D.
FIELD SECRETARY
OF HOME MISSIONS
ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

THE
Board of Home Missions
OF THE

CHEYENNE PRESBYTERY
REV. L. HAROLD FORDE
PASTOR EVANGELIST
STATED CLERK

Presbyterian Church of the U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

LET US MAKE THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH A POWER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS IN WYOMING

CHEYENNE, WYOMING

2022 PEBRICAN

October 1, 1914

Rev S. Hall Young D.D

New York City

My dear Doctor Hall:-

I have a letter from Dr Dixon. I wrote him a very encouraging, strong and earnest letter about Dr Græists appointment to the Alaska work. He says that he finds that such conditions are liable to be made hurtful through spitefully following up the man. This is my way of expressing his statement. However he says "None the less I shall submit your letter to the Administration Committee having the Alaskan work in charge and their decision will be reported to you". Perhaps I am betraying confidence in so writing you. But I am in earnest in this matter and anxious that we get the Doctor into this work. I suggest that if you can touch this Administration Committee that you do so- in other words now is the time and opportunity to get in your work for a good man in Mission work.

Sincerely

L. Harold Forde

11-16-14
REV. B. P. FULLERTON, D. D.
WESTERN SECRETARY
ST. LOUIS, MO.

THE
Board of Home Missions
OF THE

REV. L. HAROLD FORDE
STATED CLERK
SUPERINTENDENT OF MISSIONS
CHEYENNE-LARAMIE PRESBYTERIES

Presbyterian Church of the U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

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CHEYENNE, WYOMING

2022 PEBRICAN

November 9th, 1914

Rev S. Hall Young D.D

New York City

My dear Doctor Young:-

I have before me as I write the decree of Court granted to Dr H. W. Griest of Casper- in which he is personally absolved as I read it from all wrong doing in any way- and in which all the blame rests on her who once vowed to love and cling to him as a wife. I am merely writing you today that you may know there was no blame to attach to Dr Griest as I wrote you before/ The Judge at first declined to allow any allimony- but at the Doctors suggestion has made a small amount payable monthly; with the positive statement that this may be changed by taking the matter up with the Court. I speak of this to show the character of the man.

The matter is settled now- so that there need be no hesitancy in my opinion in taking him for work. I have held this same view all the time, and do yet. It was through no fault of the Doctors that this sorrow has come into his life.

Sincerely

L. Harold Forde

November 16, 1914.

Rev. L. Harold Forde,
2022 Pobrigan,
Cheyenne, Wyoming.

My dear Mr. Forde:+

Yours of November ninth concerning Dr. Greist is at hand. I am very glad indeed to hear that Dr. Greist is free. He is certainly a grand man and I am most anxious to have him for our Alaska work.

The report of our general missionary on the Bristol Bay mission is in, but has not been acted upon as yet. I shall urge ~~that~~ all my might that the mission be opened. Whether the Board, in the present stress for funds, will see fit to add a medical department to it remains to be seen. The report of our general missionary contemplates, for the first year at least, simply a school with a nurse in addition to the minister and his wife. I am going to see if they will not add a physician. If they do, I shall urge Dr. Greist for it. As it is, the plan of the general missionary demands the raising of a special fund of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for houses and equipment. There is a government physician in that region with a small hospital. It may be that we will simply aid him in enlarging his hospital and his equipment and thus obviate the necessity of another large salary and expense of equipment.

If Dr. Greist is not sent to Bristol Bay, however, I shall try my best to have him sent to Point Barrow. I believe he is too valuable a man to lose from the Alaska work. I thank you for your interest in him and in our Alaska missions. We are at one in our judgment of the case.

I shall write to Dr. Greist again.

Y-CM

Very sincerely yours,

DR. HENRY W. GREIST
SURGEON
CASPER, WYOMING

Friday,
January Twenty-ninth,
Nineteen Fifteen.

Rev. Dr. S. Hall Young,
New York.

My dear Doctor Young:

I crave your pardon for dropping you a few lines to advise that in no sense or to any degree whatsoever have I grown lukewarm as to Alaska. The matter lies very near my heart, and I yet pray that God may open the way provided it be His will.

Since your letter to Rev. Mr. Forde, of Cheyenne, late in the autumn, I have had no advices as to the situation saving a general letter from Rev. Mr. McBride, in Cordova. He writes me very entertainingly and hopefully.

From some source I have understood that the Board is contemplating entering into some sort of partnership with the Government physician in the Nushagak, perhaps spending some money in enlarging his hospital that it may serve a double purpose, for his work and that of the Board as well, all this in line with the felt need for economy. It has also been my understanding that with this plan a nurse and minister only would be sent to the field. I trust I may be excused the liberty in suggesting that such a hospital under the immediate management of a physician not actively in sympathy with the mission and its vital interests, a doctor unconsecrated to the advancement of Christs kingdom in the hearts of men, would hardly subserve the work of the mission to anything like the extent as would a hospital completely under the control and active management of the mission. There would inevitably creep into it an atmosphere foreign and alien as well to the Christian atmpsphere desired.

(or more)
I have some \$1500.00 worth of surgical supplies, instruments and surgical furniture, used in my hospital in Indiana, the furniture such as is used in the operating room of an up-to-date surgery, and the instruments of the latest and most approved pattern, all of which I would place at the disposal of the Board, to be used by me in my work, to remain mine in title but loaned to the Board for use in Alaska, in case I were sent there. I would ask no rental, and probably in the end would donate to the ~~Board~~ ^{Board} hospital all furniture owned by me and used there. This would leave but the building, and the beds and bedding, and such other supplies as are necessary to the economical conduct of a hospital. In short, I would relieve the Board of some \$1500 worth of essential and absolutely necessary supplies in way of instruments and operating room furniture,--relieve them from the necessity of purchasing same. A few odds and ends only would be requisite.

Hoping these few words will not prove amiss, and with kind regards and best wishes for the mission, I am

Sincerely yours,

H. W. Greist

FEB 13 1915

Dr. Morgan

DR. HENRY W. GREIST
SURGEON
CASPER, WYOMING

February 9, 1915.

Dr. S. Hall Young,
New York.

My dear Doctor Young:

Pardon me another letter without awaiting reply to my last of some days since, but there are a few matters I very much wish to put before you at once.

I believe I stated to you that, in case I shall be chosen to occupy the Nushagak field as medical missionary I would gladly loan to the Board my surgical furniture rent free, later on donating same to the Board and for permanent use in that hospital. I wish to withdraw that proposition and make another more in keeping with the spirit of the matter in hand. I am willing to donate the out-fit in way of operating-room furniture at once on being appointed to that field, it being understood of course that the Board pay freight charges on same to destination. The furniture is as good as new and would cost on market today near \$500. I sold my sterilizer in Indiana and another would have to be purchased, probably at a cost of \$100.

I have carefully estimated the probable cost of that which is essential in addition to that which I have -- that which would be necessary to equip a ten-bed hospital ready for work, the equipment being up-to-date and as good as that usually seen in the average private hospital. Buying these goods in Chicago of the largest hospital supply house in the United States, Frank S. Betz & Co., and having the usual hospital discount discounted account the missionary purpose to which it would be put, I believe that with \$600 I could satisfy our needs. This covers the strictly hospital equipment only. Perhaps donations of various sorts would be received, kitchen equipment, etc., etc., of which I have taken no account.

So anxious am I to "lend a hand" in furthering this work and in co-operating with you and the Rev. Mr. McBride in your personal views as to the desirability of the Board having their own hospital and equipment rather than to enter into partnership with that doctor now up there, -- so desirous am I of assisting in this that I venture this letter, and would ask that you accept it in the spirit in which it is written. May the work prosper and may the apparent obstacles in the way vanish, is my prayer.

With kindly regards, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

H. W. Greist

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF

DR. H. W. GREIST, Commissioner

March 1, 1919.

MONTICELLO, INDIANA

Rev. Dr. S. Hall Young,
Alaska desk,--
The Board of Home Missions,
New York.

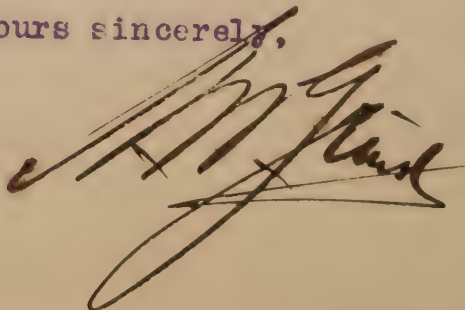
My dear Dr. Young:

My pastor, the Rev. Dr. Rodgers, tells me that he recently had the pleasure of a moment's conversation with you at the Chicago meeting, and he bears to me your message that the time may soon come when my services will be required in Alaska.

I desire to express ~~somehow~~ the pleasure I feel at this good news. I cannot tell you how it gratifies me. I take it that you have some substantial hope of soon realising your plans as to Nushagak, that there is either prospect of The United Evangelical Church of Alaska becoming a reality, else you have about accomplished your plan to interest certain moneyed men in the project to the extent that they will endow that mission under the management of our Board. In either case I sincerely hope that I will not be forgotten when the time shall come to choose for Nushagak the personnel of its mission. That will prove a great work. Bristol Bay needs the Church's influence. May God bless you and your co-workers.

I would be delighted to hear from you if at any time you have any encouragement to offer.

Yours sincerely,



Alaska Office

March 21, 1919.

Dr. H. W. Greist,
Monticello, Ind.

My dear Dr. Greist;

Yours of March 1st has been lying in my office for some time. I have been almost constantly away from the office during the past winter on my Home Missionary itineraries. I spent a large part of the time in Wisconsin.

I fear that our expected boom in the population of Alaska and its missionary activities will not materialize until 1920. The reasons are - first - the failure of the Rail Road Bill calling for \$13,500,000. to complete the Government R.R. in Alaska. This bill shared the fate of all the R.R. Bills and was shoved aside the last days of Congress. I presume it will be taken up at the special session which will be called soon after President Wilson returns from the Peace Congress. But the R.R. will hardly be finished this summer and Alaska's boom cannot rise to large proportions until that happens.

Second; - The New Era Movement has got to prove itself before new missionary enterprises can move forward with any confidence. The Board of Home Missions faces a probable large increase in its deficit. Whether the New Era Committee will be able to handle that in addition to the 1,100,000. required for the Home Mission enterprises of the coming year is as yet an unsolved question.

There is, however, this possibility for you in the near future. In the general agreement between the denominations made in 1883 in regard to the Native missions of Alaska, the Baptists were given the Prince Williams Sound country, Kadiak and the country about Cooks Inlet and the northern part of the Alaskan Peninsula. They established a mission at Copper Center on Copper River and also a mission with an orphanage on Wood Island near Kadiak. They also had a mission at Valdez and I think some branch missions adjacent to Kadiak. They have abandoned all of these missions with the exception of Woods Island, where they still have their orphanage and training school.

I have been urging the Baptist Mission Board to take up again their work in that region. Because of the confiscation by the Bolsheviki of all Russian Greek Church funds the Russian missions in that region have been abandoned. There was a priest at Ellamar on Prince Williams Sound and I hear he has left the country. I am urging the Baptist Church to establish a good big hospital on Prince Williams Sound, preferably at Seward where the natives from Copper River on the East and the Alaska Peninsula on the West, the head of Cooks Inlet on the north and the southern end of Kadiak on the south can be brought for medical treatment. If they take this up I shall take great pleasure in recommending you as the suitable physician for such an enterprise. The principle diseases of the natives in that region are tuberculosis, syphilitic diseases and trachoma.

Third; - I have also been urging the Baptists to take up the Wushagak - Bristol Bay proposition. The Government talks about moving more vigorously than it has ever done towards helping the Eskimo and providing them medical aid. The influenza was fearfully destructive among the Eskimos and Aleuts this last winter. The Nome papers report over 1,000 deaths among the Eskimo in the vicinity of Seward Peninsula and Norton Sound. Whether the epidemic reaches as far as our mission at Point Barrow we have not yet been able to learn, but we fear the worst there.

We have decided to send one man at least up to Point Barrow the coming summer to investigate that mission with a view of establishing a large hospital there. We have been trying to get the Government to take hold of it and have met with considerable encouragement from Washington. If the Government fails to erect a hospital there we will have to do so, but can hardly get the material for the hospital, the nurses, etc. ready before 1920. Our plan is to have Dr. Spence, who is our missionary and physician there take charge of the medical work at Point Barrow and send a minister for the church. It may be that Dr. Marquis, the general secretary of the Home Mission Board, and Dr. Condit as well, will make that trip the coming summer. I expected to make the trip with Dr. Marquis but I am to be commissioner to the General Assembly and am to be nominated for the Moderatorship. My friends seem to think that I have an excellent chance for election. In case their hopes should be realized my hands will be full the whole year and it would be entirely impossible for me to get away for such a trip. Even if I am not elected I shall be in such demand for lectures and have so much else to do that I cannot go this summer. The more probable thing, however, is that we will send Dr. Condit alone to Point Barrow this coming summer to make his report and Dr. Marquis and I will make that trip together in 1920.

I have given you these facts in detail in order that you may understand just how the land lies. You may be sure that I shall recommend you to the first eligible position which offers large usefulness in your line. I shall keep in touch with you and hope to hear from you again.

Very cordially yours,

DR. HENRY W. GREIST

MONTICELLO, INDIANA

July 24, 1919.

Rev. Dr. S. Hall Young,
Special Representative,
The Board of Home Missions,
The Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.,
New York.

Dear Dr. Young:

I hope my occasional letter to you is not interpreted as being importunious. You kindly suggested that I keep in touch with you, and such has been my only aim. I would also have you know that my hope as to Alaska is most active.

On March 21st you suggested that, possibly, the Baptists would again assume active control of the country about Prince Williams Sound, the Kadiak, and the Cook's Inlet country. You did me the honor to say that, should they adopt your suggestion and erect a good big hospital perhaps at Seward, you would recommend me as a suitable man to take charge.

While I very much prefer to work under our own Board, and that because I am a Presbyterian, nevertheless I full well realize that denominational lines are or should be forgotten, largely, in pioneer work. Consequently, if the way should not open for work under the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, I would gladly accept appoinement under any evangelical board for service in Alaska. But I would wish to be very sure that the door is closed as to our Board using me.

But Alaska appeals strongly to me, and particularly in the recent months of Influenza pandemic. Many hundreds and mayhap thousands have been dying up there and for want of medical care. Without the Gospel and without professional attention, they have simply died like hogs with the cholera. Had our Board established their proposed mission in the Nushagak, what a blessing it would have proven in the recent past. But better late than never, and this leads me to dare make a suggestion:

Why could not the Board establish a pioneer work in that region, some where about the Peninsula country, and perhaps secure from the Government tents suited to base hospital work, send me and with me a minister, and one or, better, two nurses. With dog teams and motor boats, etc., etc., the work could be opened up and later on a more permanent establishment be had. Physically, I am entirely fit for such arduous work. No man any where found could better withstand the

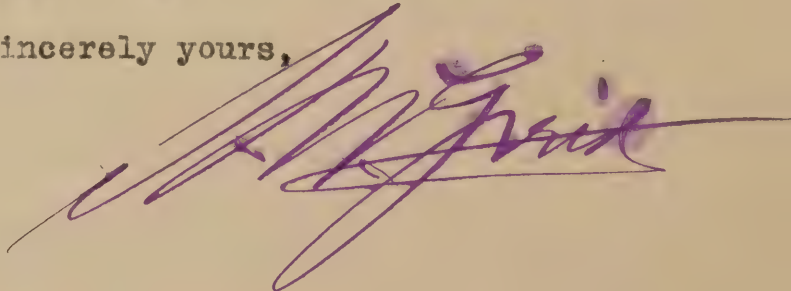
rigors of such pioneer work. It would appeal to me. I know hospital work, having now a private hospital of my own. And I know what it means to practice medicine in a wild and desolate country, for I was a physician in Wyoming for some years until three years since. And I have done home mission work among the mountaineers of Alabama, teaching a mission school down there under the Friends (Quaker) Board and doing house to house visiting and otherwise making myself useful to those people many years since when a young man. I am now in my prime, fifty years young, if you please, and with the years of training and the enthusiasm of ^{maturity} manhood, I am by nature and by training fitted to go into the Alaskan wilderness and pioneer the way medically and as a Christian teacher, and I submit, -- Why not? My heart is up there with those people, and I wish to go, and being qualified as I believe I peculiarly am, again I would ask, WHY NOT?

The sacrifice will be great, the financial loss serious, but -- I am willing and anxious to go.

Some time, Dr. Young, when you have the time again, please write me of any developments in which you believe I would be interested. I watch the Continent, the New Era Magazine, and other publications closely for any developments.

Praying God to richly bless you in your work and in the larger service to which you have been called in this great work, I am

Sincerely yours,



DR. HENRY W. GREIST
MONTICELLO, INDIANA

August
10
Nineteen Eighteen

Rev. Dr. S. Hall Young,
The Alaska Desk,
Board of Home Missions,
New York.

My dear Dr. Young:

I have not forgotten your good letter of last November 22, written from Warren, Ohio, where you then were on a mission to the Presbyteries of Ohio.

In that letter you spoke at length as to your hopes concerning the organization of an "Evangelical Church" for Alaska, etc., said church to represent the combined churches now at work in that great North West. You also spoke of a plan you had in mind in case the greater proposition failed, that of asking Cleveland Dodge to endow the Nushagak mission, and which on being presented to him was by him held in abeyance for a bit account the many appeals for money from Red Cross, Y.M.C.A., etc.

You asked me very kindly to keep you in touch with me.

The matter of Alaska lies very near my heart. I cannot forget it -- dream of it, think of it, plan for it. And I wish to go. As a church, it occurs to me that we cannot afford to neglect our obligations as to Alaska and its people notwithstanding the many appeals for money made necessary by this world war, howsoever great and urgent they be.

I recently offered myself for commission in the Medical Reserve Corps of the Army, and passed a rigid examination 100% perfect in all saving my slight defective hearing, and this disqualified me. I am therefore yet on the job at home.

Is there no opening at all in Alaska, a place to which I might be sent pending the organization of the larger work in Nushagak? My wife and self, with our baby boy, would be able to go. She, as I have said, is a graduate nurse with years hospital experience, and is even now superintending my private hospital here in Monticello. She is a better physician than many with M.D. tacked to their names, and would be of invaluable help to me in the field.

With the hope that something may offer sooner or later, and with kind personal regards, beg to remain

Yours for the Master's cause

H. W. Greist

Sept. 6, 1919

Dr. Henry W. Greist
Monticello
Indiana

Dear Dr. Greist:

Your letter of July 24th has ~~lain unanswered~~ all this time for several reasons: first, I have been hard at work most of the time and away from the office the rest of the time since it arrived.

But the principal reason for my delay has been the absence from the office and from New York not only of our officials of the Home Board but of those who represent the Boards of other denominations.

The conditions in Alaska are peculiar and depressing. While our Indian Work in sotheast Alaska has gone along with little change the work among the whites has been sadly demoralized. Alaska does not have in it now more than half the white men who were there two years ago. Most of the young men are away, Alaska having furnished a larger proportion of her men as soldiers than any other state or territory. Then gold, as you know, took a tremendous slump in its purchasing power. The government railroad was begun at both ends of the route and perhaps two-thirds of the line to the interior completed. Then the funds were exhausted and the work has been almost completely dropped, which has thrown many thousands of workmen out of employment. Of course it will be recommenced as soon as Congress votes an additional appropriation, but it is likely that the Republicans will demand an investigation, which will take time. The price of transportation to the gold regions has advanced until it has been impossible for any except the very richest of the mines to work and of course prospecting in new territory has been almost completely abandoned. The price of copper which advanced by leaps and bounds during the war and resulted in more than quadrupling the output of that metal in Alaska has slumped now and with the addition of strikes in the leading mines has diminished the production almost below the ante-bellum times.

The salmon canning business also advanced tremendously and a multitude of new canneries were rushed up but at present many of the canneries are shut down.

The government survey of farming lands which was begun with vigor has also slowed up since construction on the railroad has stopped, and the returning soldier boys will have to wait a while for homesteads.

All this has put Alaska in the dumps. Of course we know that with its tremendous riches it is bound to come to the front again, larger and richer than ever, but in our Missions among the whites we are scarcely

holding our own.

Now as to the Eskimos on Bering Sea, in which you are especially interested. Two years ago, as I think I told you, I applied to Cleveland Dodge, who is reputed to have some \$70,000,000, and who is especially interested in non-denominational work, asking him to finance the Bristol Bay mission, to the tune of \$30,000, or \$35,000. He replied to my letter most kindly, saying that he was very much interested in the project, but was just then exerting himself to utmost in the Red Cross work and other benevolences which had to do with the war. He invited me to take up the subject again with him after the war should be over.

The war is now over but Mr. Dodge's war activities are not. However, it seemed to be time, as summer approached, to broach the Bristol Bay proposition to him again. But Mr. Revell, who is very close to Mr. Dodge, advised me to wait until after summer vacation time, and possibly a little longer.

In the meantime, upon that very Bering Sea region descended in its very worst form the scourge of influenza. In the Nome region and at Teller, Golofnin Bay and Norton Sound it was established that three-fourths of the Eskimos died. Strangely to an unbeliever, but not strangely to us who know how different matters are when there are missionary physicians at hand, and missionary care and cleanliness, the Eskimos on the Arctic shore around the Friends' Mission at Cape Blossom, the Episcopalian mission at Point Hope and especially our large mission at Point Barrow, there was little or no influenza, and very few, if any, deaths from that cause.

But to the southwest on the western shores of the Alaska Peninsula and on Bristol Bay and Nushagak the mortality was the greatest recorded anywhere. A marine lieutenant sent up to Bristol Bay in the spring to report upon the scourge says in his account to the government that 85% at least of the Eskimos of that region have died; that in a community of nine hundred Eskimos there are less than twenty-five survivors. We have not received reports from the Island of Nunivak, from the St. Lawrence Islands where there used to be a Presbyterian Mission or from the Iliamna region. But it has been rumored that in all these places where there were no missions the mortality has been frightful. These reports come through the Bureau of Education at Washington.

But here again strangely except to Christians, the Moravians, who have a large Missions on the Kuskoquim River and on the Bering Sea near that river's mouth, at Quinhagak, and other mission points there has been almost no mortality from this cause. Dr. de Sw einitz, the Secretary of the Moravian Mission Society, tells me that their people have been "miraculously preserved."

Thus it seems, Dr. Greist, as if the probability of the Bristol Bay Mission has been solved in a very sad way. However, we are awaiting the report of Dr. Marquis, our General Secretary, who with Dr. Condit went up to Point Barrow this summer to report upon the practicability of erecting a large hospital at our mission there and who are expected also to report upon the

whole condition of all the Eskimos in all that region.

There remains one larger region that may possibly afford you the outlet for your medical missionary skill which you desire. I have already indicated the outlines of this to you, I think. That is the region about Prince William Sound, Kenai Peninsula, the Kadiak and Puget Sound country, and the eastern shore of the Alaska Peninsula. I have urged the Baptists to take up their missionary work with vigor and to establish in connection with their school at Wood Island near Kadiak a large hospital for the natives exclusively. They ought to be able to gather these natives into this hospital from three hundred miles around the central point, which would probably be Kadiak or Seward. I think I shall hear from them before long and if you wish shall urge your name as the missionary physician in general charge of this great work. The government has not taken up the medical work among the natives of that region with any vigor. In addition to the prevalent tuberculosis and syphilitic diseases, trachoma is very common in that region. I have some ghastly photographs of afflicted children that I can send you if there is a probability of your going to that region. I expect to see the representatives of the Baptist Church before long in connection with our Home Missions Council work.

We have not heard from Dr. Marquis since he left Nome for the Arctic, more than a month ago. We are daily expecting letters from him and will probably return to his office by the middle of September. Then I hope there will speedily be something doing in Alaska along your line.

I am firmly convinced, Dr. Greist, that you are the best available man for this medical mission work in Alaska and shall not cease to urge your claims.

Most cordially yours,

DR. HENRY W. GREIST

MONTICELLO, INDIANA

December 20, 1919.

Rev. Dr. S. Hall Young,
New York.



My dear Dr. Young:

Just a few words of greeting at this Christmas tide with the wish to express to you my kindly consideration and the hope that you may be spared to your family, to the Board of Home Missions and to your friends for many years yet.

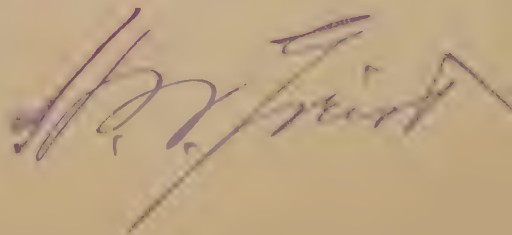
And in passing, may I express also the hope that ere another year passes the way may Providentially open for the Board to use me in Alaska? Surely, with the phenomenal success of the New Era movement it will not be long ere the Board will feel justified in engaging in further aggressive developmental work in our Northland. And I wish to be considered and considered well, when that time shall come.

Dr. John N. Hurty, Secretary of the Indiana State Board of Health, will tell you that, as Commissioner of Health for my county, I have done remarkable work in sanitation and in disease prevention in my territory.

Dr. Thos. C. Moffett, of your office, practically offered to take me on in his Navajo Indian work, in New Mexico, but I could not feel it wise to accept this opening. Possibly I made a mistake, but I cannot but feel that Alaska will yet use me. And prayerful searching after God's will seemed to indicate it as best that I decline, or at least hesitate, which I did. And yet, I could work among the Indians of the states, and I could put my whole heart into it, once being assured that that is my place. However, Alaska calls more emphatically.

Again expressing the compliments of the season, and praying God's richest blessing upon you and your service, I am

Sincerely yours,



DEC 24 1919

Alaska Office.

Dec. 23, 1919.

(copy)
Dr. Henry W. Greist,
Monticello, Ind.

My dear Dr. Greist;

Yours of Dec. 20th is just received. I intended this evening to write you and am glad that I have this letter also at hand.

My pleasure certainly equals yours in my having at last a definite plan to write you.

As you know, Dr. Marquis, our General Secretary, made a trip to Alaska last summer, attempting to pierce the ice floes and visit Point Barrow. He failed to get nearer than three hundred miles to Point Barrow, but he visited St. Lawrence Island, Cape Prince of Wales and the Pribylofs, and collected much interesting data about the Eskimos. He came back full of enthusiasm and has lately got through the Board several important measures.

I prepared a new map of the apportionment of Alaska among the different denominations. This map you will see in the January number of the New Era Magazine, with the first instalment of Dr. Marquis' article about his trip.

The Board has voted to establish a hospital at Point Barrow next summer, and to-day the good news reached us that \$25,000 has been given for this purpose.

Our Board also voted to reopen our abandoned mission at St. Lawrence Island and put a hospital there.

Also to establish a mission on the Fur Seal Islands (Pribylof) with a hospital.

Also to establish a mission and hospital at Univak Island or Nushagak or both places.

Not all of these enterprises can be consummated next summer, but we expect to establish a hospital at Point Barrow and open one, and we hope two, of the other new missions. Our Church is becoming aroused to the needs of these poor people.

We were hanging back in the expectation that the Government would build a hospital at Point Barrow and perhaps other hospitals, but we have given up all hope of their doing this within the next year or two.

JAN 9 1920

Congressman Good, of Iowa, Chairman of the Committee of Appropriation writes that they are paring down all new appropriations in a desperate to reduce the budget for the coming year from its estimate of \$5,000,000,000 to \$4,000,000,000. We cannot hope that they will do much for Alaska.

I hoped to get from Cleveland Dodge \$30,000 or more to establish a mission at Mushagak. I learned today, however, that he has declared himself unable to do anything more the coming year than he is doing now, having committed himself to large gifts to the Armenians, Syrians, etc. He has a son who is a missionary in Syria.

Now we decided today, and Dr. Marquis asked me to write to you to this effect, that you will be sent to the most important and needy one of these mission points among the Eskimos next summer.

If Dr. Spence, who is at Point Barrow, decides to come out next summer you will be asked to go there and take charge of the most important field in Alaska. However, Dr. Spence has expressed himself as desirous of staying out of Alaska when he comes away. He is over sixty five years of age. He will give him the chance of supervising the building and establishment of the new hospital, and we expect that he will choose to remain at Point Barrow at least a year or the more. In which case you will be asked to take hold of one of the other propositions.

There is some doubt as to the location of the mission at St. Lawrence Island. The Government school, which occupies a building erected by the Presbyterians, is in the northwestern point of the island. This site was chosen by the Eskimos because the walrus herd coming from the Arctic Ocean in the fall sweeps by that point. However, the Bureau of Education thinks that the school and village ought to be moved to the southeastern point of the island, where there is abundant pasturage for the herds of reindeer and, also, a better harbor and some salmon streams. It may be that decision concerning that question will not be made next summer. However, I am of the opinion that the matter will be amicably decided by our Board and the Bureau of Education.

St. Lawrence Island is a bleak, isolated and stormy place, without a tree except a few stunted willows and alders.

The missionaries residing there are completely cut off from communication with the outside world for seven months in the year, as the island is inaccessible while the ice remains in Bering Sea. However, Mr. Gambell and his wife and, afterwards, Dr. Campbell and his wife enjoyed their work at St. Lawrence and were loath to come away. Mr. and Mrs. Gambell and their child were lost by the wreck of the schooner in which they were returning to this field from a visit to the East.

The Russians had at one time a mission and church at St. Paul Island of the Pribylof Group among the fur seal herds. All of these Russian missions to the west have been abandoned because the Bolsheviki have appropriated the funds of the Russian Greek Church.

Life at St. Paul would not be so hard as at St. Lawrence Island. The Bering Sea ice does not envelope these islands and there is more abundant life of bird and fish.

Nunivak is a very large, low island without trees, and is almost constantly enveloped in mist. The natives here know nothing whatever about Christianity. No whites so far as I know have ever established any residence there, and they are heathen, pure and simple. Once, when sailing by Nunivak, we threw some soap to some Eskimos who paddled out in their comikas to the ship. They immediately ate the soap. This unexplored territory, and the joy of preaching the gospel where it has never before been heard would fall to the lot of the first missionary establishing himself on these islands.

You already know something about Kushagak and Bristol Bay. Perhaps you do not know that this region was almost entirely depopulated last spring by the scourge of influenza, so far as the adults were concerned. There are a lot of orphan children there who must be taken care of. The Moravians at Quinhagak, Bethel and Akiak on the Kuskoquim have cared for some of these poor orphans, but there are hundreds of them who need looking after.

Now, the Congregationalists would take you in a minute for their large mission at Cape Prince of Wales, if we would let you go to them. That place has been without a missionary for several years, altho the Congregational Board has been using every effort to find one. The influenza swept that coast a year ago and two thirds of the population died. Many of the orphans left there have been adopted by the Friends at Cape Blossom, the Norwegians at Teller and the Methodists at Sinuk, but there are many left to be cared for at Cape Prince of Wales. In Bering Strait, opposite the Cape, are the Diomed Islands, and quite a village of Eskimos are on Little Diomed which belongs to Alaska. ~~Both~~ Nothing has been done for the Diomed Eskimos or those on King Island to the south or those on the Siberian shore.

Now you see ~~there~~ that a tremendous field is before you. You will have to be ordained by your Presbytery that you may be both the spiritual and the medical helper of these forlorn flocks of sheep. Will you undertake this task, and go wherever we decide there is the most need of you?

And do you know any other Christian physicians of like spirit with yourself whom we could send to the other points?

The missionaries in Wukon Presbytery now receive \$2,000 salary, but I think a person undertaking the double work of doctor and minister in such a place ought to have at least \$2,500, and I am satisfied this would be forthcoming. The life of sacrifice such as would be required of you always appeals to the Church at large, and I have no fear of the lack of funds. The great difficulties will be to get the men. You are the only new man in sight who fills the bill.

Please let me hear from you as soon as possible, and give your views frankly and fully.

Praying that God may guide you and us and that you will decide to undertake this great work for these poor people I am as always,

Your devoted friend,

L. M. Young

DR. HENRY W. GREIST

MONTICELLO, INDIANA

3
December 30, 1919.

Dr. S. Hall Young,
The Home Mission Board,
The Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.,
New York.

My dear Dr. Young:

Acknowledging receipt of your favor the 23d inst
which awaited my return from a Holiday visit on the 27th.

Your kindly announcement that the Home Mission Board has decided to use me and to send me and mine into Alaska this coming summer effects me profoundly. Words fail in the attempt to express those emotions had on reading your letter. I am sure you will understand when I say, -- it now being thirty-five years since I first became interested vitally in missions and felt that God would have me dedicate myself thereto, during which time I have never for a day dared to doubt the genuineness of His "call", and have during these years tried to prepare myself for efficient service when the time should come, -- I am confident that you will comprehend when I assert that your message comes to me as a distinct though agreeable shock. I believe I had grown accustomed to disappointment, and was all but prepared to conclude that God perhaps had been testing me. And now I have difficulty in realizing that my prayers are about to be answered, that I am in fact face to face with the actual realization of my one great life hope. And I can but praise the Lord for His wonderful goodness because I seem to feel that all these years He has been preparing me in a thousand different ways, that my varied experiences have been fitting me the better for the arduous and responsible work needful. But nevertheless, I am appalled at the bigness of the job offered me, its scope, its possibilities, its responsibilities. I have a vision of great things for Alaska within the next generation. We are but beginning a new era, perhaps, an era of achievement and aggressive accomplishment based upon the work you so faithfully pioneered -- you with a few other bold souls who ventured forth in the early days. And I am glad that I am to have a modest share in that immense work. And yet, I feel most incompetent. ~~None~~ I can but rest upon the promise of Him "Who strengtheneth us," and depend upon the loyal support of the Church and the Board who so generously offer to back me up. The sacrifice will prove a very real one, but what else can I do for "Woe is me" if I fail. I can but go forward and forget the cost materially. I am sure I will be most happy in this work, happier than I have ever been, and I wish no "soft snap," no easy job, because in a sense I wish to make up for lost time. I feel that I am far from being an old man, that I am good for many active years of strenuous work. And so,

what more need I say, and can I say less than, Here I am--
send me.

And, if it be His will, I go for life. I ask no limited contract, no five- or seven year term of service, and have no mental reservations as to some day returning to the States in desertion of that I have believed to be my life work.

And in a large measure I prefer to sail with "Sealed orders." I have great confidence in God's over-ruling goodness to His children, and my faith in the fairness of the Board of Home Missions impells me to trust implicitly in the wisdom of the Church. I believe literally in the guidance of the Holy Spirit (my Quaker training was thorough,) and I cannot believe serious errors are likely to occur.

You ask for a frank and full statement of my views. While recognizing that the Board must at all times reserve the right to place a worker where in the judgment of the Board that worker will best serve, nevertheless I am venturing to avail myself of your given privilege of free expression.

As to location: I very much prefer the main land to that of any island station. Mrs. Greist, for some unaccountable morbid reason, dreads an island home. She particularly shrinks from St. Lawrence and from Nunivak. St. Paul of the Pribilofs meets with less opposition, however, and it is possible that she would become reconciled thereto, but I seriously doubt if she would be content upon either of the other two islands. I would prefer to be stationed upon the main land, or as near thereto as may be. With my home upon the same, I could and would go and come with motor boat or dog sledge as required. Frankly, Mrs. Greist would go to Alaska because I go, and not because of any deep seated and long conviction of duty. As with myself, But she willingly goes. And I would be pleased to have her satisfied in so far as we may. It does require consecrated effort on the part of a woman of 46 years of age to undertake such a matter even with and for her husband, think you not? Point Barrow appeals to me, and in a different way the Nushagak also calls. I have kept in touch with conditions at the latter place through channels of the U.S. Public Health Service, and well know of the terrible havoc wrought there by the Influenza epidemic or pandemic. What a pity we could not have established a hospital there in 1914, when we first discussed it. In some ways I would choose the Southern location, and in others I would prefer the Point, and so I must leave it to the larger wisdom of the Board to decide. If it shall seem unwise to send me to either of these locations at the present time, perhaps another ~~and~~ equally satisfactory and important field can be found. I will gladly abide by the conclusions of the Board. And yet, I would be glad to have some active part in the building and in the equipment of the hospital, and other arrangements, wherein I am to play so active role. I appreciate the reasons for proffering to Dr. Spence

the honor of erecting the hospital at Point Barrow. I assume, of course, that the plans for this Point Barrow hospital, as with others to be constructed elsewhere, ~~also~~ will be worked out by a professional architect specially trained and conversant with hospital requirements, medical and surgical. There would be local conditions of course, peculiar particularly ~~to~~ Point Barrow, which could be emphasized by the doctor on the ground as by no other man.

I greatly regret that conditions as to the present population in the Nushagak seem to make this field one of secondary importance. And any hospital and mission to be there established would be perhaps minor in character as compared with the one at Point Barrow. Had not more than 85% of the ~~male~~ population died, and if the Board could see its way clearly to enter this field as planned some years since, I would prefer the Southern station I believe, and would then be able to attack it in its incipency, working out the mission idea from the start, superintend the erection of ~~Church and~~ ~~of my~~ hospital, my work-shop, my professional home for the next indefinite number of years. But Drs. Marquis and Condit have both, I believe, been on that field and ~~had~~ have studied it at first hand, and their judgment is invaluable. They know -- I do not. It would seem to the most simple, however, that a ~~hospital~~ hospital and mission must have a populace else they can do no work. But those orphans and the adult population left from disease should have care. Possibly you have in mind another location within the Yukon Presbytery which promises as much as the Nushagak has. Really, I must leave it all to the wisdom and better judgment of yourself and the Board. I am arguing the matter merely to ~~indicate~~ indicate to you that I have ideas even tho they be of little real value. ~~I am sure I can do more than \$2500.~~

As to the salary you indicate, that of "At least \$2500," the amount is really in excess of that I had anticipated, and while much less than the income I have enjoyed from private practice, nevertheless it will perhaps enable me to make ends meet. My two boys who complete high school this year will wish to enter college next autumn, and I must assist them. I am glad to depend upon \$2500.

There are so very many questions I would ask, so much I would know, and I cannot put it on paper. I wish I might have a personal interview. My private business must be closed up, and my several interests seem a serious matter. However, I wish to burn all my bridges behind. My fourteen-room residence and private hospital, all furnished nicely, with full equipment and much valuable supplies, is to be dismantled and sold. I am wondering if I cannot take some of my valuable equipment with me. To sell surgical supplies entails a serious sacrifice always. These many problems can be taken up later on, but I must have help and advice. Verily, the sacrifice will be great. Our home is one of the beauty spots in this lovely village.

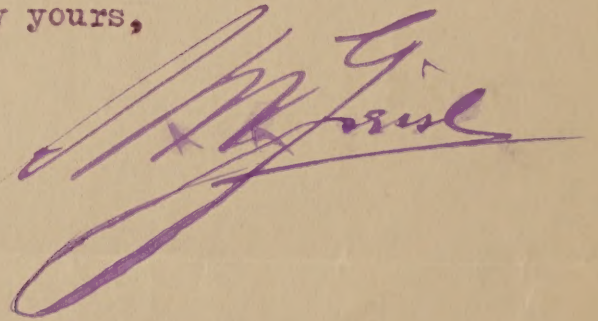
As to the Congregationalists wishing to have you release me to them for service upon or at Cape Prince of Wales, I have no desire to be released from the Presbyterian Board, preferring to work with my own Church. Were our Board to say, We cannot use you now and the future is uncertain, or should they advise me to go to the Congregational Board, it were different. The work upon that field would be interesting, but there are other needy fields under care of our own church and to one of them I am willing to be sent. These matters are in the hands of our Board -- I have offered myself to them and cannot remove the gift from the altar.

As to the matter of being ordained, I am ready. Our Presbytery meets in April. Understand, it ought not be required of me to pass the rigid examination in theology, etcetera ad infinitum, to which some are subjected. I know no Greek, no Hebrew, but I do understand the Presbyterian form of government, Church organization, the Confession of Faith, and believe absolutely and unreservedly in the simple Gospel of Jesus Christ, the inspiration of the Scriptures, the Virgin Birth, the atonement. Is more necessary? If there be any special reading I should do in preparation for this ordeal of ordination, please advise.

May I hope for further word very soon, and will you frankly advise and instruct?

Thanking you again, I am

Sincerely yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to S. Hall Young, written over a horizontal line.